

Given a series of paragraphs, the reader identifies the correct detail from a list of choices which relate to a specific question.

UNIT 8
Lesson 1
Understanding Details

TECHNICAL TALK

As you read stories and other types of selections, you encounter many facts. Some of the facts look very much alike. If you are to get the most out of what you are reading, you must remember the exact detail, concept, or idea. You need to read very carefully because a concept or idea may not be expressed in just one word. You may wish to look at the questions first before you begin reading. This provides precise purposes for reading.

TRY IT

Try your skill with this objective by reading the following paragraph and answering the multiple-choice question which follows.

Nebraska is the only state in the United States with a unicameral form of government. That is, it has only one legislative body instead of the Senate and House of Representatives found in most states. Many people like this form of government because it can act quickly on bills.

Question: A unicameral form of government has (a) only two legislative bodies
(b) only a House of Representatives (c) only one legislative body

You should have selected (c) as the correct answer. Did you get it right? If not, go back and re-read the paragraph. Note that the word "unicameral" in the first sentence connects with the word "one" in the second sentence.

HAROLD, THE DEPRESSION KID



Read this short story about "Harold, The Depression Kid," for further practice.

In the early and mid-1930's, a terrible depression occurred in the United States. Millions of people were without jobs and money was scarce. Some people went hungry because many families did not have money for food.

Harold was eleven years old in 1934 and lived in southern Kansas. He wanted to buy a pair of shoes. He said, "Dad, may I have five dollars for a pair of shoes?" His father said, "Harold, I earn only a dollar a day and I cannot afford to buy you shoes."

Look at the possible answers following each question. Select the best answer.

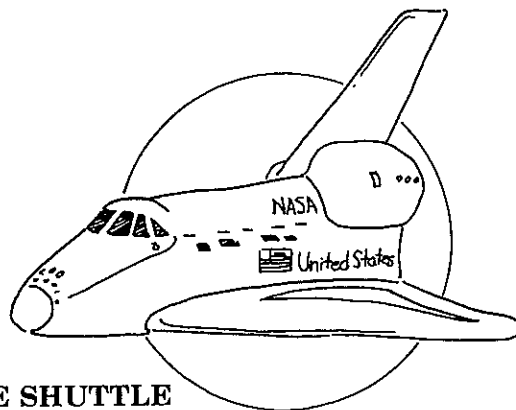
1. People were hungry because (a) they could not find food (b) they did not have money to buy food (c) they didn't need food
2. Harold was born in (a) 1927 (b) 1923 (c) 1934
3. Harold's dad earned (a) \$3.00 a week (b) more than \$3.00 a week (c) less than \$3.00 a week

REVIEW

UNIT 8 Lesson 2 Understanding Details

Did you select the best answer to the three questions you just read?
Finding the right answer requires very careful reading.

You should be interested in the exciting science story in the next section. This selection is about the space shuttle which no doubt will be hurtling about the earth in a few years. Read it carefully and find the best answer to each of the five questions which follow the selection.



ALL ABOARD THE SPACE SHUTTLE

Probably most of you have ridden in an airplane at some time. In a few years, scientists hope to have a space shuttle that will carry people and cargo. This amazing machine will be about the size of a large airplane and will make many earth orbits. Many of you will probably have a chance to ride in the new vehicle.

The space shuttle will be launched with large booster rockets. When the shuttle gets many miles into the air, the boosters will come off the shuttle and drop to the earth. The boosters will be used again for later missions. After the trip is completed, the machine will be landed on a long runway like an airplane and be ready for another trip in a few weeks.

Many good things may come from the space shuttle trips. They may help us learn how to use the heat of the sun to warm our homes. They may make it possible to study the atmosphere of the earth. They will probably help us find out more about the earth's gases and how we can use them to improve our lives. When the first space shuttle goes into the air, it will signal a new adventure for all people.

1. The space shuttle will carry (a) people (b) cargo (c) people and cargo (d) people and space scientists
2. Boosters can (a) lift the shuttle to the moon (b) never be used again (c) be used again (d) burn easily and be destroyed
3. The space shuttle will probably (a) make a single trip to the moon (b) make a single orbit about the earth (c) make several orbits about the earth (d) go to Mars
4. The space trips may (a) help us learn more about electricity (b) show us how to use the sun to heat our homes (c) provide entertainment (d) be relatively inexpensive
5. The shuttle will be about the size of a (a) car (b) tractor (c) airplane (d) boat



HOW DO ANTLERS GROW?

You have probably been to a zoo and have noticed the long antlers of animals such as deer and caribou. Have you ever wondered how these antlers grow? This selection will tell you all about antlers. Read it and see if you can answer the five questions which follow it.

Many animals that live in North America have horns or antlers, but there is a difference between horns and antlers. Horns stay on the animal at all times, but antlers drop off each year and have to grow back. Most of the hoofed animals such as buffalo have horns while many animals such as deer, moose, elk, and caribou have antlers. Very young and very old animals usually do not grow antlers. Both males and females of certain types of animals grow antlers.

Animals use their antlers for many purposes. For example, they use their antlers to protect their babies from other animals and to help dig up small plants for food in late fall and winter. Since the males fight for mates, they may use their antlers against each other.

Animals such as the elk start growing antlers in February or March. The antlers begin as several soft bumps or buttons that rise on the animal's head. These bumps contain hundreds of tiny blood vessels which supply energy to the baby antlers. By August or September, the animal has very long antlers.

1. Most deer have (a) horns (b) antlers (c) neither horns nor antlers
2. Antlers are used for (a) eating plants (b) fighting enemies (c) cutting limbs
3. Horns are different from antlers because (a) they are longer (b) they don't drop off each year (c) they are harder
4. It takes how long to grow a set of antlers? (a) one year (b) one month (c) about five to six months
5. Animals having horns are generally (a) caribou (b) deer (c) hoofed animals

HOW DID YOU DO?

